

HISTORY OF ALEXANDER SMITH



Alexander Smith was born January 24, 1856 at place called Birnieknowe in Auchinleck Parish, in Ayrshire Scotland. The youngest child in the family of twelve children of Alexander and Janet Murdoch Smith.

His mother was in ill health from the time he was born and she died of heart disease June 28, 1866 when she was 54 years of age. His father died in 1876.

Alexander was 10 years of age at his mothers death so was reared by his sister Agnes who was just four years older then he. He grew up in the hill country where he learned to care for sheep and cattle on his fathers ranch. (In the 1851 and 1861 Scottish census his fathers occupation is listed as coalminer-Editors note.) When he was a young man he learned to survey and worked for several years at that trade before coming to the United States in 1882.

He came to Iowa, where he stayed with relatives named Johnson and worked at surveying around Cherokee. In 1888 he moved further west to Endicott in Whitman County, Washington.

He purchased land in the southern end of Whitman County and had quite a prosperous sheep ranch with headquarters not far from the Snake River near Riporia, Washington.

In 1902 he married Margaret Boyd Scott who had come to Endicott from Glasgow, Scotland with his brother Williams family. They lived on the sheep ranch until 1915 when he sold the ranch and moved to Clarkston, Washington where they built a house and had a fruit orchard for the next five years. In 1920 they moved to a wheat ranch in southern Asotin County where they lived for two years moving into the small town of Anatone when his eyesight began to fail.

He was a deeply religious man who wrote poetry and did a great deal of reading until he lost his sight. His children remember him as a quiet, kind, gentle person who loved all children and animals. He and his wife were the parents of five children who are all living at the present time. He died at Anatone in 1936 and is buried at Endicott, Washington in the family plot.

His children are Agnes Mabel Smith Bacon of Brewster, Washington, Robert Alexander Smith, Margaret Jeanette Boggan of Clarkston, Washington, Pauline Smith McDonald Mercer of Spokane, Washington and Andrew Glen Smith. He has eleven grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren that we are aware of at this time. (Submitted by Jeanette Smith Boggan)



WILLIAM SMITH & ALEXANDER SMITH



ALEXANDER SMITH & MARGARET B. SCOTT